



Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools Program

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ)

News and Events

- EPA is now accepting applications for the **National Environmental Leadership Award in Asthma Management**. This award recognizes leaders in the asthma care community that successfully manage environmental triggers as a part of their comprehensive asthma care program. Do you know of or work with communities in action, health care providers or health plans that have outstanding comprehensive asthma programs? Encourage them to apply today. Visit <http://www.asthmaawards.info> to learn more. Hurry, the application deadline is **March 16, 2010!**
- **Register now for this MUST SEE webinar presentation, [Finding Solutions: The Virtual Walk-through](#) on Thursday, March 25, 2010, 1:00 - 2:30 PM EST. Don't miss this chance to learn about great tools and investigative tricks from IAQ investigative walk-through gurus Richard Prill, Building Science and Indoor Air Quality Specialist, Washington State University, and David Blake, Environmental Specialist/ Indoor Air/ Asbestos, Northwest Clear Air Agency. They will share their knowledge on how to conduct a facility walk-through to identify solutions to common IAQ problems during this **interactive webinar presentation**. [Register today](#).**
- The **2010 National Radon Poster Contest Winners** were honored during January's *Indoor Air Quality Tools for Schools* National Symposium. Students Alec Smith (Guthrie, OK - First Place), Emily Pinnock (Holladay, UT - Second Place) and Noah Jermain (Savannah, MO - Third Place) were honored for their leadership and creativity in raising public awareness about radon. View winner posters and learn how you can participate in next year's contest at <http://www.sosradon.org/>.

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JOIN THE DISCUSSION

The Schools IAQ Connector Listserv makes it easy to **drive the conversation** about IAQ management by **connecting directly** with your peers to share information and communicate over e-mail and on the Web. **Join the listserv today** by sending a blank e-mail message to schools_iaq_connector-subscribe@lists.epa.gov. Then, check your e-mail inbox for your confirmation and membership details.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Collaborative Design Challenge: Driving the Momentum for Outstanding IAQ Outcomes in Schools!

This year, more than 500 IAQ champions participated in the IAQ Collaborative Design Challenge at the 10th *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium. The Challenge guided attendees through a problem-based learning approach that tasked participants - organized into IAQ Collaborative Design Teams - to develop actionable, problem-solving ideas and approaches for five real school districts (IAQ Design Challenge School Districts). IAQ Collaborative Design Teams used the Key Drivers and Technical Solutions of the [Framework](#), as well as knowledge gained during sessions, to guide their recommendations for how the IAQ Design Challenge School Districts could overcome their challenges in implementing sustainable IAQ management programs. Ultimately, participants left with the skills necessary to design solutions to their own IAQ challenges and minimize roadblocks to success in their school districts.

The results were nothing short of spectacular. Whether the challenge was finding creative ways to fund an IAQ management program, developing new procedures to enable greater transparency between IAQ management stakeholders and the school community, or determining ways to quantify the success of IAQ management efforts, IAQ Collaborative Design Teams applied their knowledge to design solutions for difficult, real-life IAQ management challenges. [View the Poster Presentations the IAQ Design Challenge Teams created and meet the IAQ Design Challenge School Districts they were designed for.](#)

In the end, both participants and the IAQ Design Challenge School Districts rose to the "Challenge"! These school districts left the Symposium with a bounty of strategies that will help them take a fresh approach to implementing effective IAQ management programs, and participants left ready to apply their new skills to their own IAQ challenges.



An IAQ Design Challenge Team discusses and develops recommendations for the IAQ Design Challenge School Districts.

BECOME AN *IAQ TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS* AWARD WINNER

The [National Great Start](#) and [National Leadership](#) Awards are non-competitive awards for schools or school districts that recognize IAQ management programs that are just starting out. **Applications are accepted year-round. [Apply today!](#)**

ACCESS THE *IAQ TOOLS FOR SCHOOLS* WEBINAR ARCHIVE

EPA organizes webinars to discuss hot topics in IAQ management, offer deeper insight into aspects of creating and sustaining effective IAQ management programs, and to connect IAQ champions around this important work. [Access the webinar archive](#) to view past presentations, supplemental materials, and summaries of each event.

DID YOU MISS THE SYMPOSIUM?

No problem! Presentations from the expert speakers at the 10th *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium are available to [download](#) on the Symposium Web site. Simply click the speaker's name in the right-hand column that corresponds to the session you're interested in, and save a copy on your computer.

Update #25, March 2, 2010

The Symposium and the Design Challenge may be over, but you haven't heard the last from the IAQ Design Challenge School Districts. Regional representatives and our *IAQ Tools for Schools* Faculty School Districts are committed to assisting them as they work to overcome their IAQ management challenges in the next year. Stay tuned for regular updates from each of our Challenge School Districts and wish them luck on their spectacular journey towards achieving many future IAQ victories.

We want to hear about your victories, too! E-mail iaqtfconnector@cadmusgroup.com with your IAQ management successes. For more information on the IAQ Collaborative Design Challenge process and to see presentations from sessions at the Symposium, visit <http://www.iaqsymposium.com>.

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In Focus: Why We Fight for Healthy IAQ in Our Nation's Schools

This year, Symposium participants had the opportunity to hear remarks from U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Administrator Lisa P. Jackson and U.S. Department of Education's General Counsel Charles Rose on the importance of providing healthy learning environments for America's students. Both reaffirmed the Administration's commitment to ensuring that students are healthy, safe and ready to learn in clean school environments.

Administrator Jackson expressed a sincere thank you to all attendees for their hard work and commitment to ensuring a safe and healthy school environment for children. The fight for healthy IAQ in schools is more than a professional battle for Administrator Jackson - she is also the mother of a child with asthma.

"The IAQ Tools for Schools Program may not make the headlines or get you on T.V. But the peace of mind your work provides for parents, and the better days it provides to our kids is what this program is all about."

- Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, U.S. EPA

Thank you to all the IAQ champions for the work you are doing and the support you are providing to improve the health of students and staff in schools throughout the United States, allowing them to realize their full potential and lead active, healthy lives. You are making a difference - for students, for parents like Lisa Jackson, and for millions of others.

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Congratulations to the ***NEW** IAQ Tools for Schools* Award Winners!



From left: Eugene Benoit, EPA Region 2; Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator, U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation; Jack Levine, 2009 National Connector Award winner; Tom Kelly, Director, U.S. EPA Indoor Environments Division.

Each year at the *IAQ Tools for Schools* National Symposium, EPA honors the [National Excellence](#), [Model of Sustained Excellence](#) and [IAQ Tools for Schools Connector](#) award winners. This year, **Gina McCarthy, Assistant Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation**, recognized the following award winners:

National Excellence Award Winners:

- [Keller Independent School District, Keller, TX](#)
- [Kenosha Unified School District No. 1, Kenosha, WI](#)
- [North Penn School District, Lansdale, PA](#)
- [Wayzata Public Schools, Plymouth, MN](#)
- [Westport Public Schools, Westport, CT](#) (check out Westport's award-winning IAQ program on their [local community news site](#))

National Model of Sustained Excellence Award Winners:

- [Ocean Township School District, Oakhurst, NJ](#)
- [Omaha Public Schools, Omaha, NE](#)
- [Spokane Public Schools, Spokane, WA](#)

National *IAQ Tools for Schools* Connector Award Winners:

- [Jack Levine, Amity Regional School District No. 5, Woodbridge, CT](#)
- [Michael Sheehan, Baldwin Union Free School District, Baldwin, NY](#)

To learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Awards Program and read more about these award-winning school district's IAQ management programs, go to <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools/awards.html> today!

Update #25, March 2, 2010

Have Your Questions Answered!

Is there a topic you want to see covered in an *IAQ Tools for Schools* Update? Need more information or have a quick question? Do you have suggestions for a webinar, an Update feature, or are you simply curious about an IAQ topic and would like more information? If so, send us an e-mail at IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

Share YOUR news and events! Send us information to share with the school IAQ community. It could be featured in the next Update. E-mail your news to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com.

If you like what you're reading, maybe a friend or colleague would too - forward this e-mail! To subscribe to *IAQ Tools for Schools* Updates, send an e-mail to IAQTfSConnector@cadmusgroup.com with "subscribe" in the subject line.

The *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program is a comprehensive resource to help schools maintain a healthy environment in school buildings by identifying, correcting, and preventing IAQ problems. Learn more about the *IAQ Tools for Schools* Program at <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/schools>.

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